



# Advocacy & Witness News

Congregational Advocacy and Witness  
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SEPTEMBER 2008

## New Beginnings!

The weather is cooling and leaves are changing and that means it is a new congregational year. We have loads of resources on how to make your next year effective including election resources, workshops and trainings, and ways to get new environmental justice resources and news. Also, you can nominate congregations for the Bennett Award for Justice. Find all these resources and more at [uua.org/socialjustice](http://uua.org/socialjustice)

We would also like to take this time to wish the Washington Office's director, Rob Keithan, the best of luck as he starts his nine month ministerial internship at the First Unitarian Church of Portland, OR. Adam Gerhardstein will be taking his place as acting director. Good Luck Rob!

## New Voting Resource: Faithful Democracy 2008

Congregations and campus groups interested in registering and mobilizing voters are encouraged to check out *Faithful Democracy: Unitarian Universalists and the 2008 Election*, a new resource which lays out clear steps for effective organizing.

The guide starts with a simple summary of what congregations and religious leaders can and cannot do in an election year, provides step-by-step suggestions for appropriate activities, and ends with a detailed list of resources and links (such as to the voter registration requirements for each state). This new resource, as well as *The Real Rules: Congregations and IRS Guidelines on Advocacy, Lobbying, and Elections*, is available at: [uua.org/socialjustice](http://uua.org/socialjustice).

## Social Justice Empowerment Workshop Now accepting workshop requests for 2009!

Congregational social justice leaders often ask: "How can we involve more people in our congregation's social justice programs?"

The basic purpose of a social justice empowerment workshop is for members of a congregation to assess the quality of their social justice program. It is an opportunity for members of a congregation to consider what they are doing as an institution to create a more just and caring world. During the workshop participants reflect upon what they can do as a religious community to put their faith into practice.

A workshop usually takes place over a weekend. Here, you learn how to: form action groups, enable action groups to do effective work, and evaluate the overall social justice program.

Congregations pay a program fee based on the size of their faith community. For more information including costs involved, or to apply, please see: [www.uua.org/leaders/leaderslibrary/socialjustice/index.shtml](http://www.uua.org/leaders/leaderslibrary/socialjustice/index.shtml)



**"Grownups can't be trusted with guns and bombs."**

**-Cynthia G.  
 Age 8  
 Milwaukee, WI**

## Calendar

September 1	Labor Day
September 22	Autumnal Equinox
September 27	Day of action for Green Jobs
September 30	Rosh Hashanah
October 8	Indigenous People's Day/ Columbus Day
October 9	Yom Kippur
October 11	National Coming Out Day

**Action of the Month: Darfur**  
 Please note and post our companion newsletter on the September action for Darfur.

October's Action will be on Iran.

**Congregational Based Community Organizing Money Available Now!**

The Fund for UU Social Responsibility will offer matching grants for congregations wishing to join a congregation-based community organization (CBCO). This "Special Matching Fund for Congregation-Based Community Organizing Grants" will provide a resource for UU congregations and their leaders to draw upon in initiating CBCO work.

As a matching fund, congregations will be expected to make their own financial commitment as a condition of receiving a grant. The Fund is also offering matching grants for congregational leaders to attend CBCO training. The UU Funding Program is proud to add this \$80,000 initiative to their grant making program. There will be an application process of two cycles a year for matching membership grants – in March and September – and for smaller matching grants for training at any time. Please see go to <http://www.uua.org/giving/fundingprogram/> for more information.

For more information about CBCO, how to find a CBCO near your congregation, and for information on CBCO Network trainings see [www.uua.org/socialjustice](http://www.uua.org/socialjustice), select resources and click on Congregation-Based Community Organizing (or go to <http://www.uua.org/leaders/leaderslibrary/congregation-basedcommunity/index.shtml>).

**Stand on the Side of Love With New T-Shirts**

Your friends got them in Ft. Lauderdale and you just have to have one. Well, now you can! Get your Standing on the Side of Love shirts from the UUA.

**Order your shirt now**, they are going fast. Get your favorite activist a shirt for the upcoming year of actions. **Hurry! Supplies are limited.**

Our handsome shirts come in both **adult and children's sizes**. And are made from pre-shrunk, 100% cotton materials. **Available in all sizes (From Children's Small up to XXL).**

There is a **\$3/shirt discount for bulk orders**, so order as a congregation! Contact Kat Liu at [Kliu@uua.org](mailto:Kliu@uua.org). If you'd rather place an order by phone, please call at (202) 393-2255 x13.



**Environmental Justice News List**

In case you haven't heard, the UUA has an environmental justice news and action list. Unlike many environmentalist lists, this one will focus on the social justice dimensions of environmental issues - looking through the eyes of racial, economic, and gender justice. It will be sent out once or twice a month. If you are interested, please email [environment@uua.org](mailto:environment@uua.org).

Or you can change your UUA Justice Action Network subscription preferences directly by going to:

<http://salsa.democracyinaction.org/o/1272/t/4696/signUp.jsp?key=1357>

"When we deal gently with the earth—even when we have thoughtlessly damaged it—we can repair our friendship with it."

—Rene Dubos

**Advocacy and Witness Has a New Blog**

Find out what your Advocacy and Witness team is thinking about!

Read our reflections on upcoming events and news stories, thoughts on new movements and causes, and reports on exciting progress on national legislation.

<http://uuasocialjustice.blogspot.com>

**Social Justice Award for Congregations! Consider nominating your congregation! Nominations are due March 1, 2009!**

**Bennett Award for Congregational Action on Human Justice and Social Action**

The Bennett Award for Congregational Action on Human Justice and Social Action, instituted in 1999 by James Bennett to honor the congregation that has done exemplary work in social justice, is accompanied by a \$500 cash award that is presented at General Assembly.

For more information and to see past recipients, please see:

[www.uua.org/giving/awardsscholarships/bennettaward/index.shtml](http://www.uua.org/giving/awardsscholarships/bennettaward/index.shtml)

"There is no fear in love; perfect love drives out all fear."

-1 John 4:18  
KJV

